

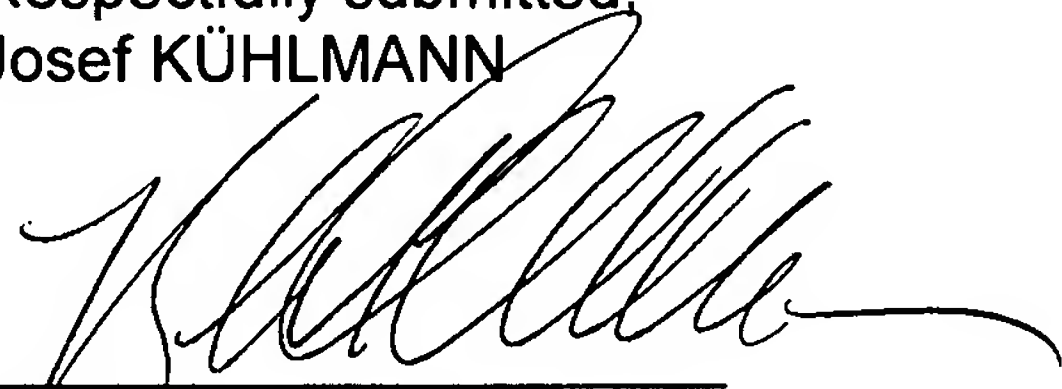
**REMARKS**

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant amendment has been prepared to remove multiply dependent claims in order to reduce governmental filing fees and to present the claims in better form for U.S. patent prosecution. Thus, Applicants submit that the instant amendment has not been made for any reasons related to patentability such that no estoppel should be deemed to attach.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Josef KÜHLMANN



Neil F. Greenblum  
Reg. No. 28,394

Robert W. Mueller  
Reg. No. 35,043

December 28, 2005  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191